

Human Rights Commission 2015 Work Plan



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Bloomington Human Rights Commission

Work Plan 2015 – Executive Summary

Action Categories	Cultural Competence	Equality	Leadership	Public Relations
January		Proclamations: Rev. MLK, Jr. Day Proclamations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jan. 5 - City Council ○ Jan. 12 - School Board 		
February		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb. 22 - The Underground Railroad historical quilt pattern presentation with Deb Meyer. Co-sponsor Bloomington Historical Society. • Thurgood Marshall event. Co-sponsor with US District Court: District of MN 		
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 21 – Block Captain Workshop. Sponsor session on mental health in the community with guest speaker from NAMI. HRC information booth. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 16 - Diversity Day – T-shirt contest selection
April	Proclamation: Genocide Awareness Month		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRC Team Building Activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April - Information Booth; Egg Hunt and Family Fun Walk & Booth • April 29 – Kennedy Diversity Day booth.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 4 – 25 – “Transfer of Memory” exhibit on Holocaust survivors and community event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 1 – Sponsor speaker with a disability for Diversity Day at schools. Tie to ADA events. • “Diversity Wheel” activity at schools. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 1 - Diversity Day • May 1 - Peace Run • May 1 - Jefferson Div. booth • May 22 – Middle school Diversity events, specifically Olson Middle
June				
July		Proclamation - July 6 – 25 th Anniversary of the signing of the ADA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 9 & 26 – support MSCOD activities. • Sponsor screen of TPT documentary. Provide names of interviewees. 		

August				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 4 – Participate in National Night Out
September	Proclamation: Sept 21 – International Day of Peace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 14 – Oct. 5 – “A Peace of My Mind” exhibit. Sept. 19 – Heritage Days: Cultural entertainment. Sept. 22 – John Noltner, exhibit curator, event Naturalization Ceremony 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 19 – Information Booth – Heritage Days.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct. 19 – Nov 9 – “Tracks in the Snow: the MN Muslim Experience” exhibit 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct 3 – Creekside Open House
November				
December			Proclamation: Human Rights Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dec 7 – Council Dec 14 – School Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dec. 7 - Omar Bonderud Award/Reception 	
Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioners attend educational workshops and conferences Support Joint Community Police Partnership (JCCP) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicize HRC in Briefing, Channel 14, outdoor message sign, social media, City website, public libraries. Create digital brochures on specific Human Rights. Participate in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District #271 Diversity Advisory Committee Jefferson/Kennedy HS Diversity Committee Local committee on homelessness.

Bloomington Human Rights Commission

2015 Work Plan

Purpose

The purpose of the Bloomington Human Rights Commission (HRC) is to advise the Bloomington City Council in matters of human rights and equal opportunity for all citizens of the city.

Our 2015 Work Plan is organized by key issues identified in the report, *“Building Inclusive Communities, An Action Guide for City Leaders,”* published by the League of Minnesota Cities.

We’ve chosen (4) categories for action in 2015. Those categories are listed and described below:

- 1. Cultural Competence**
- 2. Equality**
- 3. Leadership**
- 4. Public Relations**

1. Cultural Competence

“Cultural competence is a willingness to learn and listen. It is being welcoming and dropping defenses. It is asking rather than assuming. It is a permanent way of changing how community issues are communicated and approached.”

- Provide opportunities for Human Rights Commissioners to attend educational workshops and conferences.
- Celebrate 2015 International Day of Peace, September 21, 2015.
 - a) Present Proclamation at City Council for 2015 International Day of Peace, September 21, 2015.
 - b) Sponsor one-day of International Day of Peace events focused on Bloomington.
 - 1. Host a naturalization ceremony for immigrants.
 - 2. Host “A Peace of Mind” exhibit, a multi-media art project that fosters public dialogue about issues related to conflict resolution, civic responsibility and peace, September 14 – October 5, 2015.
 - 3. Sponsor John Noltner, Keynote Speaker, focus on Peace of Mind exhibit, 100 interviews from book, “A Peace of Mind”, featuring local people (Flora Tsukayama) exploring the meaning of peace, on story at a time.
- Support the Joint Community Police Partnership (JCPP) in Bloomington.
- Coordinate cultural activities at the Bloomington Heritage Days (September 19, 2015). Activities may include cultural entertainment and interactive activities.
- Sponsor “Tracks in the Snow: The Minnesota Muslim Experience” photo exhibit at Bloomington Civic Plaza, October 19, 2015 – November 9, 2015 for Islamic New Year (October 25, 2015).
- Sponsor “Transfer of Memory” exhibit at Bloomington Civic Plaza. Exhibit is photos and stories that illustrate Holocaust survivors living in Minnesota (May 4, 2015 – May 25, 2015). May sponsor community event during exhibit.
 - Judith Meisel – Speaker, Minnesota
 - Dora Eiger Zaidenweber – Speaker, Minnesota
 - Eden Prairie, Minnesota Educator – Specialized/Holocaust education curriculum
- Proclaim April as Genocide Awareness Month

- Feature speakers and media resources on Human Rights issues including, however not limited to:
 - a) Mashood Yunus, Al Farooq, Muslim Community Center
 - b) Dr. Joyce Ester, President, Normandale Community College
 - c) Diann Kirby, Director, Community Services, (update) Resident Survey Results
 - d) City Manager, Jamie Verbrugge, Bloomington
 - e) Kathy Millington, Executive Director, World Citizen
 - f) Les Fujitake, Superintendent, Bloomington School District
 - g) Doug Belton, Joint Community Police Partnership and Multicultural Advisory Committee
 - h) Commissioner Kevin Lindsey, Minnesota State Department Human Rights
 - i) Dinna Wade-Ardley, Director, Office of Educational Equity
 - j) Edward McDonald, Executive Director of Council on Black Minnesotans (COBM)
 - k) Hector Garcia, Executive Director of Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC)
 - l) Sia Her, Executive Director on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (CAPM)
 - m) “Coexist”, a 40 minute documentary film on survivors of the 1994 Rwanda genocide
 - n) Individual knowledgeable on sex trafficking issues

2. Equality

“Improve cross-cultural understanding and acceptance.”

- Celebrate/recognize Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday (January 19, 2015). Present Proclamation to City Council and School Board.
- For Black History Month, co-sponsor event:
 - Bloomington Historical Society educational program on historical quilts which tell the story of the underground railroad.
 - Research availability of speaker Michelle Alexander, Civil Rights lawyer, advocate and legal scholar for 2016. Her book is “The new Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” (co-sponsor with the Minnesota League of Women Voters and others).
 - During Black History Month, support and/or co-sponsor with the United States Court for the District of Minnesota, the Federal Bar Association, and

with the approval of the Bloomington School District, the TPT documentary and the Illusion Theater play on the life of Thurgood Marshall.

- Coordinate events with the Minnesota State Office on Disability to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
 - ADA Documentary
 - Sponsor screening of TPT documentary and provide potential advocates with disabilities who live in Bloomington to appear in documentary
 - Keynote Speaker on Diversity Day in Bloomington Public Schools
 - Kevin Kling – Commentator for NPR, Acclaimed story teller, graduated from Gustavus Adolphus
 - Leslye Orr – Random Actos of Blindness
 - Diversity activity, “Diversity Wheel”, on Diversity Day at schools
 - Proclamation celebrating 25th Anniversary of ADA on July 6, 2015
- Celebrate International Human Rights Day (December 10, 2015). Present Proclamation to City Council and School Board.

3. Leadership

“Being a successful leader of a multicultural community also means recognizing and fostering leadership in others.”

- Solicit applications and present the Omar Bonderud award.
- Plan a Team Building Activity for the HRC.

4. Public Relations

“Increased visibility will allow more citizens to access our services and increased communications will keep the Commission aware of events and trends in the community.”

- Participate in community events including, however not limited to:
 - a) Heritage Days
 - b) Creekside Community Center Open House
 - c) Egg Hunt and Family Fun Walk
- Diversity Day
 - a) Co-sponsor Diversity Day speaker. Potential speakers include, but are not limited to:
 - Kevin Kling – Commentator for NPR, acclaimed story teller
 - Leslye Orr – Random Acts of Blindness

- b) Participate in and support each High School's Diversity Day/Week activities and events. Include the participation of Bloomington Middle Schools, specifically Olson Middle School on May 22, 2015.
 - c) Co-sponsor Diversity Day Peace Run with Jefferson and Kennedy High Schools on May 1, 2015.
 - d) Judge Diversity & Peace Day T-shirt Logo Contest and award prizes with a presentation at a City Council meeting.
- Collaborate with the Bloomington Crime Prevention Program to provide information about the HRC and its resources and activities to the Bloomington Block Captains.
- Participate in National Night Out on August 4, 2015, distributing information to heighten visibility of the HRC within Bloomington neighborhoods.
- Publicize the HRC in the following ways:
 - a) Bloomington Briefing
 - b) Sun Current newspaper
 - c) Channel 14-Government Access Channel
 - d) City of Bloomington Outdoor Message Signs
 - e) HRC booth at community events
 - f) City's Web page
 - g) Facebook/Twitter
 - h) Provide Information at the Bloomington Public Libraries
 - i) Continue to provide Commissioner representation/participation to the following organizations:
 - District 271 Diversity Advisory Council (DDAC);
 - Jefferson High School Diversity Committee/Kennedy High School Diversity Committee
 - Provide Commissioner to participate in a local committee on homelessness
 - j) Create digital brochures on specific Human Rights (protected classes/areas of discrimination) covered under the State Human Rights Act 363 to be available to the public on the HRC website.